

September 25, 1971

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLYSECRET INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: TOM LATIMER

SUBJECT: CIA MEMORANDUM ON THE ITALIAN
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Per your request, Director Helms has sent you a memorandum, prepared by the Office of National Estimates, on the upcoming Italian presidential election. He has also returned the 'unidentified report' which you gave to him. (Tab A).

The CIA memo notes that it is not now possible to predict who will be elected President of Italy this year but it does state categorically that there is no chance that either the communist or fascist parties will feel that they can make a serious bid.

-- All the current frontrunners--Fanfani, Moro and Saragat-- will need the support of one or more of the opposition parties, including the communists, but none of them would be likely to use the office of the presidency to work for drastic changes in either foreign or domestic policy.

-- The parliamentary elections to be held in the spring of 1973 will have a far greater impact on Italian politics and policies than the presidential election of this year.

-- There is no evidence that the opposition parties have derived any tangible advantage or reward for their support of successful presidential candidates in past presidential elections.

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DOS Review Completed.

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-- The unexpected success of the still small neo-fascist party in the limited local elections last June has raised the possibility of a slowdown or halt in the leftward drift of Italian politics but in this context, the presidential election is simply an episode rather than a pivotal event. The real sign will be the results of the 1973 general elections.